

The Alice Springs Waste Stabilisation Ponds are a great place to watch birds – over 140 species have been recorded here – and there is usually a good range of waterbirds, migratory waders (mostly October – April), resident waders, raptors, as well as passerines. The ponds attract many species which are otherwise quite hard to find in Central Australia – you never know what you might see.

Location

The ponds are just south of Heavitree Gap. Drive south from town along the Stuart Highway, and turn west onto Commonage Rd (the road to the rubbish dump). Just before the rubbish dump gates, turn left along the eastern edge of the ponds. Park near the birder access gate (star on map).

Access

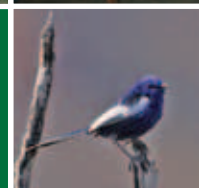
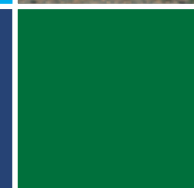
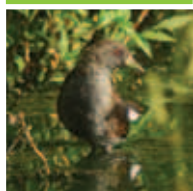
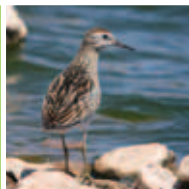
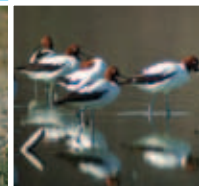
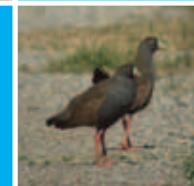
The ponds are locked. An access key is available from the Power and Water office in the Alice Plaza, Todd Mall (open Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30pm and Saturday from 9am – 12 noon, phone 1800 245 092). You will need to fill in a form and leave a \$30 refundable deposit. Closed in footwear must be worn onsite and all safety procedures followed.

For more information visit www.powerwater.com.au



Alice Springs
Waste Stabilisation Ponds

Birdwatchers’
map and guide



PowerWater



www.powerwater.com.au

www.geocities.com/alicensats/

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West of AN4, West and South West of EP10

The distant dead trees provide perches for raptors (Black Falcon is regular, Brown Falcon, Black Kite, Whistling Kite, Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite and Australian Hobby).

Ducks in EP10

Scan the flocks of Pacific Black Ducks, Grey Teal, Hardhead and Pink-eared Ducks for a chance of Freckled or Blue-billed Ducks. The northern edge attracts migratory waders over the summer months. Also check the North East corner of EP10 for crakes, and waders.

South West corner of EP10

The saltbush around the South West edge of EP10 is a good place for White-winged Fairy-wren (Variegated here too) as well as Little Grassbird. Check the reeds for Australian Reed-warbler and Purple Swamphen, and the floodplain beyond for Brown Songlark or Swamp Harrier.

Up above

Scan the skies for birds like White-backed Swallow, Martins and raptors.

Throughout

Paths between the ponds have many Australian Pipit and occasional flocks of Orange Chat or Yellow-rumped Thornbill. Little Corella (plus a couple of Long-billed) come to drink in the mornings. Crows (Little or Torresian) are common – although it is difficult trying to work out which ones they are. Best advice is to relax and look at the other birds instead!



East of the entrance

Check the paddock just east of the birder access gate for Masked Lapwing and flocks of Wood Duck. The trees and fences provide perches for Tree and Fairy Martins. Also look out for Rainbow Bee-eater, Black-faced Woodswallow and Honeyeater *sp.* in the trees.

North East corner (A3, A4, EP1)

A3 and A4 often have Wood or Common Sandpiper around the edges. Usually both Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe are here as well as Eurasian Coot. Check the North and East sides of EP1 carefully for unusual waders among the Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-capped Plovers.

Small pond EP7a

This pond and surrounding overgrown vegetation is worth checking for Spotted Crake, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels, Little Grassbird, Australian Reed-warbler and Orange Chat. Look carefully for unusual waders over summer.

South side (EP7)

The large EP7 pond has many dead sticks and logs. Depending on level, this is where most of the shorebirds will be seen. Red-necked Avocet and Black-winged Stilt gather here in flocks. Black-tailed Native-hen are also present. There are usually Whiskered Tern around and occasionally other Tern species. Check exposed mudflats for Pratincoles and the occasional Oriental or Pacific Golden Plover.

